

Dear Chairman Powell and the FCC:

I call on you to hold an official public hearing in my state.

Before the disastrous 2003 decision to weaken media ownership rules (which a federal court has now overturned), you held only one official public hearing. Further, FCC officials met behind closed doors 71 times with major broadcasters – but only five times with public interest groups. And to justify your actions, you used deceptive, industry-sponsored research data.

The will of Big Media had been heeded at the expense of American citizens and democracy itself. This has to end. Before you rewrite the ownership rules, I demand an official public FCC hearing in my state, impartial and verifiable research, and transparent debates.

It is time to put the needs of democracy – a diverse, skeptical, independent and competitive media system – ahead of profit-hungry media giants.

I think that public forums are necessary in a free society such as ours. I am very concerned that the media ownership rules has allowed companies such as Clear Channel to purchase and maintain ownership of hundreds of radio stations across the country. This has allowed corporate interests to flood the airwaves with one sided radio commentary and talk shows. This is not in line with American free enterprise and really bumps up against allowing monopolies in this industry. I am a very concerned citizen.

Sincerely,

Connie LaTour
17618 SE 24th Circle
Vancouver, WA 98683